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submitted to the Office in either prior application no. 10/132,793, filed April 24, 2002, now pending, application number 09/086,604, filed May 29, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,554,803, and/or U.S. application number 08/831,914, filed April 2, 1997, now pending, which are relied upon in this application for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120.

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement are submitted pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is relevant or "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

Although it is believed that no fee is due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency of up to \$300.00 or credit any excess in this fee to Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

Dated: July 29, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By Kevin L. Reiner

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
				Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
				First Named Inventor	Arthur Ashman
				Art Unit	3763
				Examiner Name	Ann Y. Lam
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	1527/1E848US3

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)				
	1.*	US-5,824,087	10-20-1998	Aspden et al.		
	2.*	US-5,330,357	7-19-1994	Keller		
	3.*	US-5,324,273	6-28-1994	Discko Jr.		
	4.*	US-5,269,785	12-14-1993	Bonutti		
	5.*	US-5,267,859	12-07-1993	Discko, Jr.		
	6.*	US-5,181,918	01-26-1993	Brandhorst et al.		
	7.*	US-5,026,283	06-25-1991	Osanai et al.		
	8.*	US-4,911,641	03-27-1990	Detsch		
	9.*	US-4,902,421	02-20-1990	Pascale et al.		
	10.*	US-4,859,336	08-22-1989	Savas et al.		
	11.*	US-4,784,607	11-15-1988	Francois		
	12.*	US-4,751,921	06-21-1988	Park		
	13.*	US-4,728,570	03-01-1988	Ashman et al.		
	14.*	US-4,569,662	02-11-1986	Dragan		
	15.*	US-4,547,390	10-15-1985	Ashman et al.		
	16.*	US-4,547,327	10-15-1985	Bruins et al.		
	17.*	US-4,536,158	08-20-1985	Bruins et al.		
	18.*	US-4,535,485	08-20-1985	Ashman et al.		
	19.*	US-4,366,822	01-04-1983	Alshuler		
	20.*	US-4,244,689	01-13-1981	Ashman		
	21.*	US-4,199,864	04-29-1980	Ashman		
	22.*	US-4,192,305	03-11-1980	Seberg		
	23.*	US-4,127,131	11-28-1978	Vailancourt		
	24.*	US-4,061,143	12-06-1977	Ishikawa		
	25.*	US-2,857,913	10-28-1958	Miskel		
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	26.*	2494580	5/1982	France		
	27.*	WO 9816268	04-23-199	PCT		

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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